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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/917,963	07/30/2001	Rosanne M. Crooke	ISPH-0591	9375

36441 7590 06/17/2003

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EXAMINER

MCGARRY, SEAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1635	12

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/917,963	CROOKE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Sean R McGarry	1635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2003 and 08 April 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-15 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 11 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,2,4-10 and 12-15 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Notice of Reference(s) Under 35 U.S.C. § 119
 1) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____

Information Disclosure Statement (PTO-1449)
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's election without traverse of an "active site" on SEQ ID NO: 3 spanning nucleotides 3133-3152 of SEQ ID NO:3 in Paper No. 11 is acknowledged.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-10, and 12-15 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wetterau et al [US 5,595,872, cited by applicant], Beissen et al [Circulation, Vol. 102(18), suppl. II, page 148, 10/31/00], Baracchini et al [US 5,801,154], and Bennett et al [US5,998,148].

Wetterau et al has taught the use of antisense oligonucleotides targeted to a nucleic acid encoding MTP and has taught that such oligonucleotide can be designed based on the disclosed sequence of MTP and further has taught that such oligonucleotides can be oligonucleotide analogues and may comprise 15 to 20 or more bases. It has been taught that one may target coding sequence 5' and 3' flanking control sequences and also that antisense oligonucleotides targeted to MTP can comprise other functionalities that increase stability, for example (see columns 52-53, for example).

Beissen et al have taught the inhibition of MTP in cells in culture via MTP targeted antisense oligonucleotides and assert that it is desirable to make such antisense since MTP is an attractive target for potential therapy in hyperlipidemia, for

The above references do not teach the specific modifications and carriers recited in the claims, however, the following reference provide such a teaching.

Baracchini et al have taught, at column 6 for example, that antisense oligonucleotides can be used for research purposes and have also taught at column 6 that antisense oligonucleotides can be modified in their sugars, backbone linkages and nucleobases and that such modifications are desirable in antisense since these modifications have desirable properties such as, for example, enhanced cellular uptake, enhanced affinity for nucleic acid targets and increases stability in the presence of nucleases. Baracchini et al provide specific examples of such modifications at columns 6-8 and in Example 1, for example. These specific examples taught by Baracchini et al include phosphorothioate linkages, 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugars, 5-methylcytosine and chimeric oligonucleotides, for example. Tables 1-4 show the successful design and use of modified oligonucleotides in cells in culture, for example. Table I therefore reflects the successful practice of general antisense design taught at columns 8-10, for example. At column 4 it has been taught various carriers for antisense delivery. It has been taught at column 8 that antisense are preferably 8 to 30 nucleotides and that it is more preferable to make antisense oligonucleotides that are 12 to 25 nucleotides in length, for example.

Bennett et al have taught general targeting guidelines at columns 3-4, for example. It has been taught to target 5'untranslated regions, start codons, coding regions, and 3'untranslated regions of a desired target, for example. It has been taught in column 5, for example, that antisense compounds are commonly used as research

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oligonucleotides 8-30 nucleotides in length are particularly preferred. At columns 6-7 it has been taught preferred antisense oligonucleotides contain modified internucleoside linkages including phosphorothioate linkages, for example. At columns 7-8 it has been taught that preferred antisense oligonucleotides comprise modified sugar moieties including 2'-O-methoxyethyl. It has also been taught to modify nucleobases in antisense oligonucleotides at column 8-9 which includes the teaching of 5-methyl cytosine and at column 10 it has been taught chimeric antisense oligonucleotides. All of the above referred to modification are known in the art to provide beneficial attributes to antisense oligonucleotides such as increased hybridization and nuclease protection, for example. At columns 10-24, for example it has been taught numerous "carriers" for antisense oligonucleotides. In table I it has been taught the successful targeting of those regions taught in columns 3-4 with chimeric phosphorothioate oligonucleotides having 2'-MOE (a 2'-O-methoxyethyl modification).

It would have been motivated to make the claimed invention since the prior art has taught that it is desirable to use antisense to inhibit MTP since MTP has been linked to disease, for example. The prior art has shown the successful use of antisense in general in cells in culture and specifically for inhibiting MTP in cells in culture, for example. The prior art has also provided sufficient teaching such that one would be motivated to make the specific modifications recited in the instant claims since these have been taught to be desirable in antisense applications, for example, and has also taught the use of carriers for antisense applications.

The invention as a whole would therefore have been *prima facie* obvious to one in the art at the time the invention was made.

Applicant's arguments filed 1/17/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

The combination of references provide motivation and a reasonable expectation of success in making the instantly claimed invention for those reasons set forth in the rejection of record and not specifically argued in applicants response filed 1/17/03.

Claim 11 is allowed.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

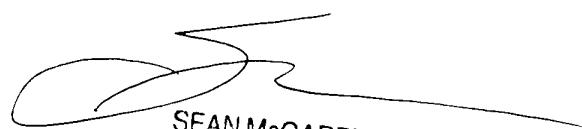
mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sean R McGarry whose telephone number is (703)305-7028. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (6:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John LeGuyader can be reached on (703) 308-0447. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-4242 for regular communications and (703) 872-9307 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

SRM
June 16, 2003



SEAN McGARRY
PRIMARY EXAMINER
1635-